

Ridding defence procurement of corruption

1092. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has sought the assistance of a German NGO Transparency International to help it combat corruption;

(b) the measures suggested to rid defence procurement of corruption; and

(c) the action taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Transparency International, a well known International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has been striving towards building up world-wide opinion in favour of transparency in Government dealings. The Organisation has evolved the concept of an 'Integrity Pact' between a Buyer and a Seller committing both to fair practices in their dealings. The Ministry of Defence had invited Mr. Michel Wiehen of Transparency International to explain the concept of the 'Integrity Pact'. He visited India in August, 2001 and gave a presentation on the subject.

Some of the elements of the 'Integrity Pact' are already included in the Contracts entered into by the Ministry of Defence. It has been the constant endeavour of the Ministry to refine the defence procurement process and the interaction held with Transparency International was a part of this process.

Contracts for defence equipments with Israel

1093. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had signed contracts with Israel worth \$2 billion for defence equipments; and

(b) if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) India has been signing contracts with

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Israel for defence equipments. It is not in the interest of national security to give further details.

Equipping Jaguar with self-protection Jammer

1094. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan of Air Force to equip the 32 Jaguar fleet with self-protection Jammer, a critical electronic warfare equipment, has been jeopardized even after an expenditure of Rs. 184 crore affecting the overall operational capacity of Air Force;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Present stage of development of AJT Aircrafts

1095. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

,SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of development and testing of Advance Jet Trainer Aircrafts (AJTA) for Indian Air Force;

(b) when they are likely to be inducted;

(c) what is the total expected funds required and the amount spent so far; and

(d) what will be the main benefits of this AJT Aircrafts to the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Various options for the acquisition of an Advanced Jet Trainer are under examination by the Government. No deal has been finalized as yet. However, Government is keen on early finalisation of the acquisition process.

(d) The Indian Air Force has identified the requirement of an